

Summary of Monitoring of Drainage System Excavations at 46CB41, November 29 and 30, 1996

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The construction project consisted of the installation of pipelines at the base of the Jenkins House drain pipes. These latter pipes run from the roof to the base of the House. The structure rests on a knoll and the pipelines that were installed are long enough that they divert the water off the top of the knoll.

Six trenches were excavated and six pipelines were installed. The depth of all the trenches excavated ranged from 12" to 15" and all the trenches were about 15" wide. Almost all the excavations were confined to the A (?) Horizon. Only the shovel test excavated by Mr. Cavender to find the bend in the gas pipeline was deep enough to go deeper than the A Horizon.

Samples of backdirt from all the trenches were screened through 1/4-inch screen. This was done in areas I thought might produce prehistoric artifacts. No prehistoric artifacts were recovered.

Jerry Cavender (304-988-0606) was the contractor doing the drain system improvements. Ellyn Cameron (304-762-1059) is the director of the Jenkins House Museum and was present during construction. Mr. and Mrs. Knight previously owned the Jenkins House and still live in the area. Prior to them, the Dauley (?) family owned the property.

I drew a map of the site area and designated all the trenches and features. This map is to scale and was developed using both a measuring tape and pacing (see attached).

Trench #1

I arrived at the Jenkins House on November 29, just as the excavation of the first trench had been completed. This trench (#1) was on the south side of the house (back yard) and extended 64 feet almost due south of the southwest corner of the house. There were no obvious artifacts or features exposed in Trench #1.

Trench #1 cut the older phone line to the Jenkins House, when it was excavated. A phone company worker had come out and marked the newer line, but he had missed the older line. This old phone line was replaced two days later.

Trench #2

Trench #2 was excavated 67 feet north of the Jenkins House (front yard) from the northwest corner of the house. This trench contained a feature (Feature #1) 9 feet north of the house. Feature #1, I hypothesize, consisted of remnants of the former law office that was once present on the property. I kept two examples of the bricks in the feature; I also kept some of the historic artifacts from the feature, particularly those that may be diagnostic of time period. The bricks from Feature #1 could not be placed back in the trench. For this reason, I stacked the other bricks, dislocated by the trencher, on the flagstone patio.

Trench #3

Trench #3 was excavated 80 feet north-northeast of the northeast corner of the Jenkins House, 70 feet due north of the north wall of the business office. This trench was not straight; it curved to the northeast. Trench #3 crossed the gasline, 22 feet 6 inches north of the Jenkins House. The first five feet of this trench (closest to the front of the Jenkins House) went through a high-density artifact area. Some of the artifacts from the high-density area were saved.

A short trench, connecting the office drain pipe to Trench #3, I labeled Trench #3'. This trench exposed a buried concrete slab at the northwest corner of the office addition. The northern and eastern extent of the concrete slab is not known since Trench #3' only crossed the corner of the slab that attaches to the northwest corner of the office addition.

Trench #4

Trench #4 extended 71 feet due north of the northwest corner of the office building (north side, front yard). Some historic ceramic sherds and a fragment of a fresh-water shell were recovered from the backdirt of Trench #4 (relatively close to house). Backdirt from near the recovery point of the fresh-water shell was sifted with 1/4-inch screen. No prehistoric artifacts were recovered. Trench #4 crossed the gasline for the House, 10 feet from the north wall of the office.

Trench #5

Trench #5 was excavated from Trench #4 at a point on Trench #4 6 feet north of the north wall of the office. Trench #5 was extended southeast from Trench #4, passed the northeast corner of the office building; it then turned south and paralleled the eastern, outer wall of the office building, 5 feet east of the wall. Two feet short of the southeast corner of the office building, the trench was excavated southwest, to meet the corner of the office building, a stretch of approximately 4 feet 6

inches. In this last section, brick rubble was evident. This rubble was probably from the kitchen that use to be on the east side of the Jenkins House. The Army Corps of Engineers previously excavated the kitchen area. The rubble in Trench #5 was not very consolidated but it was concentrated. For this reason, I did not refer to this location as a feature. I collected a large mammal bone from the rubble.

Trench #6

On November 30, Trench #6 was excavated from the southeast corner of the Jenkins House, 72 feet 6 inches south of the House. The trench was excavated under two concrete walkways (see map).

Twenty-two feet south of the Jenkins House, Trench #6 skirted a subsurface brick platform (Feature #2) in situ (the platform is 3 feet 6 inches south of the southern edge of the southern-most walkway). The platform depth below surface varies slightly over the extent of the platform. On average, the top of the platform is 6 inches below the surface. The base of the platform is about 11 inches below the surface. It varies between 5 inches and 5.75 inches in thickness. The trench excavation paralleled, exposed, and damaged the western edge of the platform. The platform runs 8 feet 2 inches north-south. All other plan-view dimensions of the platform are unknown.

Historic ceramic sherds were recovered from the backdirt of Trench #6, near the house.

Observations

During the first day of construction, Mrs. Knight, the previous owner of the Jenkins House, visited with me and brought some materials for me to see. These materials included old photographs of the property and photographs of a previous archaeological excavation.

Mrs. Knight and I discussed extensively the former locations of the kitchen structure and the law office relative to the main structure. The kitchen was on the east side of the Jenkins House and the law office was on the west side. The exact distance of these structures from the main house is not clear from the information I have obtained thus far.

The first feature I found (Feature #1) appeared to be in situ (the trencher damage made it difficult to determine this with certainty). This would agree with Dickinson's statement that the law office was "just right of the chimney" (1988:15). This would place the law office approximately where the Dauley's flagstone patio is now located. According to Mrs. Knight, Dickinson's information on the location of the law office is wrong and it was farther west. A photograph taken in 1906 indicates that the law

office was no longer standing by that year.

The photograph taken in 1906 shows two structures about 20 feet east of the House. One of these structures was probably the kitchen. If the larger structure (most southern) was the kitchen, the existing office overlaps the western end of the kitchen by two or three feet. This suggests that the kitchen site was disturbed by the construction of the existing office. Mrs. Knight indicated that the kitchen had been extensively excavated by the Army Corps of Engineers. For the above reasons, it is not surprising that the rubble found in Trench #5 looked like it had been greatly disturbed (moved around).

Reference

Dickinson, Jack L.

1988 Jenkins of Greenbottom: A Civil War Saga.
Charleston: Pictorial Histories Publishing, Co.

Attachments

1. Map showing features, excavated trenches, existing gasline, etc.
2. Copy of 1906 photograph taken facing northeast. Photograph shows two structures about 20 feet east of the Jenkins House.

JENKINS HOUSE
46CB41
DRAINAGE SYSTEM

